

WEATHER  
Fair Sunday. Monday, increasing  
cloudiness and warmer, probably  
rain or snow by night. Mod-  
erate variable winds, be-  
coming east and west.  
Full Report on Page 10

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PRICE FIVE CENTS

# Wilson Ready to Abandon Isolation Policy; Demands Detailed Peace Terms as First Step

## GERMANS USE RUSE TO FLEE BRITISH CAMPS

## Lawyer Says Slackers Also Employ 'Under- ground Route'

## ADRIATIC SAILS WITH SUSPECT

## System Revealed as Court Here Is Asked to Free Him from Brig

An attempt to get William Farrell, a coal trimmer on the Adriatic, out of prison and the ship's brig yesterday by means of a writ of habeas corpus, brought to light an "underground railroad" by which Englishmen have been escaping military service and escaping to the United States. Farrell himself is said to be a German who, like many others, escaped from camps where interned prisoners are confined.

With the attempt the coal trimmer assumed the mystery of the man in the iron mask. For days he was manacled and immured within sound of the teeming traffic of the Chelsea piers, and yesterday his friends tried to release him with the aid of the courts. They failed, and when the Adriatic sailed last night Farrell was still imprisoned on board.

Who Farrell is, why he is confined, how his friends are and how they tried to free him are questions that the British Admiralty and the radicals who gather at the Modern-Farmer School might be able to answer. Farrell's skipper says that he is a coal trimmer who threatened not to return if he got shore leave and consequently was clapped in irons.

**Says He Fled Camp**

Harry Weinberger, an attorney who tried to free Farrell, and others who seemed a sudden interest in the case, said that the coal trimmer was held as a national free lance journalist and former soldier who had escaped from a detention camp near Liverpool.

Weinberger popped the Farrell question in the United States District Court yesterday morning by applying to Judge Mayer for a writ directing the captain and officers of the Adriatic to produce forthwith the person of Farrell, also known as Kerhann.

The writ was granted on the petition of Charles Evans, another coal trimmer on the Adriatic and a British subject. He lives at 291 West Fourth-street, but nobody there knew last night whether he had ventured aboard the Adriatic again after making his deposition.

**Says He Knew Farrell**

Evans declared that he had known Farrell in London for years, that Farrell was not a German soldier nor had he been, and that to confine him in irons was a violation of the Seamen's act. The writ directed Captain J. R. Hanson, of the Adriatic, to appear before Judge Hough at the Bar Association, in the afternoon if he did not surrender his prisoner.

The writ was given to Herbert Cohen, of Mr. Weinberger's office, who was referred to Robert H. Edwards, ship's lawyer, as soon as he got aboard the Adriatic. That official, Cohen said, explained that the only Farrell on board was Peter Farrell, and had Peter brought on board, Cohen said, assured that he wasn't the man wanted and that there was a William Farrell on board. Peter stopped right there and left Cohen to settle the matter with the purser.

"The purser told me to shut up," said Cohen, "and when I remonstrated he said to me: 'I don't give a damn for the United States or its writs. This is a British ship.'"

Without William Farrell but with the assurance that Captain Hanson would have his violin and his canaries and the coaling of his ship long enough to appear before Judge Hough at the Bar Association, Cohen quit the ship. The purser accompanied him.

**Says He Didn't Know Him**

Captain Hanson, with a most lubberly urbanity, considering that his ship's sailing had been delayed six hours by a coal trimmer and his friends, swore that he did not know Farrell and had no knowledge that he had escaped from an internment camp.

Whether Farrell had any other name he did not know, but he did know that he had said he wouldn't return to the ship if he were allowed to leave, and that once the coal trimmer got his foot on shore, neither the captain nor all his officers could get him back again legally if he didn't want to come.

Judge Hough said that he did not think there was any Federal statute which authorized the use of a writ of

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## Christmas Cross Shines From Tribune's Windows

New Idea in Lighting Flashes Holiday Symbol—Spirit of Good Will Pervades City—Community Trees Everywhere

A great white cross looked down upon City Hall Park last night. Below its base New York, on the threshold of the great holiday, swirled and eddied back and forth.

Two straggling armies, marching in opposite directions, passed it. New Yorkers hurrying home to their families with the latest bulletins regarding the arrival of Santa Claus, suburbanites returning victorious from their attack upon the department stores, looked up at the symbol of Christmas pricked out in lighted windows against the high dark flank of the Tribune building and went on their way a little more quietly.

Next year, if the plans of the Gramercy Park Neighborhood Association are carried out, many other buildings will follow The Tribune's lead and bear the cross on their breasts at the Christmastide.

**Sees Germ of Great Idea**

"This is the first time that anything of the kind has been tried," said R. S. Cholmelley-Jones, president of the association, last night. "I believe it is the germ of a great nationwide Christmas lighting idea. Other buildings would do well to follow The Tribune's example to-night."

Cleveland, Ohio, may illuminate her buildings after the fashion set by The Tribune last night. Her Advertising

## 8-HOUR LAW FAILS R. R. MEN

## Switchmen Not to Get Compulsory Over- time Charge

The eight-hour day is not applicable to all railroad work, Federal arbitrators serving under the Newlands act ruled yesterday. The ruling was made on the demands of 5,000 switchmen for an eight-hour day and higher wages. Not more than 10 per cent of the switchmen can be so employed, say the arbitrators, who also held that the application of the principle must be gradual.

This decision is opposed to the contentions of the "Big Four" brotherhoods, on which the Adamson eight-hour law, now in the courts, is based. The arbitrators contend that a 25 per cent increase in wages, such as is arbitrarily awarded by the Adamson law, is not warranted by existing conditions and would work an undue burden upon the railroads of the country. Therefore an increase of but 12½ per cent is given the switchmen.

**Basic Workday**

So far as the eight-hour demand is concerned, the board rules that eight hours shall constitute a basic workday, but it refuses to award extra pay for time beyond the minimum. Those of the older employees who sincerely wish an eight-hour day can have it, the board pointed out, by selecting hours of duty that can be completed within that time.

In wages an increase of 5 cents an hour is given to the men. This makes the new scale for switching foremen 46 cents an hour for night work and 42 cents for day work. Switchmen will receive 43 cents for night work and 40 cents for day work.

The Switchmen's Union of North America, to whose members the award is made, is the one railroad brotherhood affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and the only one not formulated by the "Big Four." When the award for the eight-hour day was demanded by the "Big Four" the switchmen were refused permission to take part.

**Award Questioned**

The award is not satisfactory to the switchmen, whose representatives on the board dissented from the findings of the majority on the wage per hour rate and the rate for overtime. They will, however, abide by the decision.

Labor men yesterday declared that the board had given the "big four" and other advocates of the Adamson bill the worst blow since they had sustained the bill was forced through Congress.

Feeling in railroad circles was that the board had upheld every contention made by the roads in the recent agitation in Washington. Elsie Lee, their representative in that dispute, was out of the city yesterday, but persons familiar with his views declared that the decision, though not to the Adamson

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## TIP OFFICIAL, LAWSON SAYS

## Financier Predicts New Leak of Importance Next Week

By Telegram to The Tribune

Boston, Dec. 23.—Thomas W. Lawson, financier, sportsman and author who, with Bernard M. Baruch, of New York, cleared up millions of dollars in the stock market collapse which followed immediately on the forwarding of the Wilson peace note, acknowledged to-day that official Washington was directly responsible for the information on which the clean-up was realized.

The statement by the author of "Frenzied Finance" and "Friday the Thirteenth," followed by only a few hours a statement from Secretary Lansing in which the latter said that his department would welcome any investigation into the alleged leak that placed the advance information in the hands of the two big operators and their associates. The State Department at the same time tried to shift the responsibility on the shoulders of newspaper men, charging that several of them had received information about the peace note even before Wall Street knew about it.

Lawson's statement came out on his famous "dinner" this afternoon, and stated in part:

"Between now and New Year's there will be something specific and particular happen that will make last week's leaks appear as Cupid droplets to reservoirs of tapping by comparison. Paste this up for future reference, or put it in your pipe and smoke it."

"There were not only leaks last week, but similar leaks in almost all important Washington doings, particularly Supreme Court doings, during the last twenty years, and beneficiaries of the leaks were those public guardians who howl loudest for leak investigations. What are you going to do about it?"

"This week's leaks netted Blank & Black and Blank & Dash millions and netted the public raw hell, but what are you going to do about it?"

**Lansing Welcomes  
Investigation of Leak**

Washington, Dec. 23.—Secretary Lansing said to-day the State Department would welcome an investigation to show whether any government officials profited through stock speculation resulting from his two statements regarding President Wilson's peace note, such as was proposed in the House yesterday in a resolution by Representative Wood, of Indiana.

"I don't know much about this resolution," said Mr. Lansing, "but if there is the slightest doubt about the two statements issued by me I should welcome an investigation to remove it. Personally, I don't know anything about stocks and don't know how to speculate if I wanted to."

Counselor Polk said:

"If such a charge is being pressed in good faith it ought to be investigated without delay. Officials of the department would welcome it."

**SUNNY SKIES—PERFECT GOLF DAYS**

at Pinehurst, N. C. Write Hotel Carolina, A. E. Curtis, 109 William St., New York—Advt.

## FIELD VICTORY PARIS ANSWER TO PEACE NOTE

## Expects Military Tri- umph Soon to End Teuton Menace

## REPLY TO WILSON PUZZLES FRENCH

## Resent Being Put on Same Footings as Sinkers of Lusitania

By FRED B. PITNEY  
(By Cable to The Tribune.)

Paris, Dec. 23.—France expects soon to achieve such a victory in the field as will enable the Allies to make certain that Germany will keep the peace treaty that will end the war—to make certain that the peace will be fair and lasting.

The French doubt that Germany could give to-day any pledges that would assure peace. If the war should end with the German military power still in being, what guarantee could she give for the future that any one could accept? German policy is directed by a clique, a caste, and public opinion there, however much it might wish to observe the new treaty or to avoid a new war, could have nothing to say.

It will be difficult for France to reply to Wilson's note. She is fighting for the idea of justice and for liberty, and it is very hard to put into current terms the things of the spirit. The terms which France demands are not territory or money—it is Germany that is fighting for material things. And it is difficult to name exact conditions which will assure peace with a nation whose pledges have proved worthless, and whose future will depend far more on the mind of her rulers than on any concrete facts.

**Military Victory Sought**

France believes that only victory in the field—a victory that will destroy the German machine and teach the German people and their Kaiser the folly of their past course—will bring such a peace. And France expects that victory soon.

Wilson's note continues to be almost the sole topic of conversation here. The thing that causes the most resentment is that his first attempt to influence the war as a whole comes just after the German peace note. While the French do not doubt the President's intent to be neutral, they cannot help connecting the two documents. This gives it a most unfortunate effect.

Recognition of American help, especially in charitable work, has been the dominant note in French thought of America since the war began. The people freely recognize Wilson's intention to be neutral in his latest note, as in his previous utterances, but they do not think that this desire for impartiality is possible for a doubt to exist in any one's mind on this point. How can any one think, they ask, that France had any part in beginning the conflict, when she was obviously unprepared?

**French Puzzled at Wilson**

It is very hard to explain to the French why Wilson insisted so strongly and so many times on his desire to know what caused the war. They cannot believe it possible for a doubt to exist in any one's mind on this point. How can any one think, they ask, that France had any part in beginning the conflict, when she was obviously unprepared?

They say that the President, in putting the two groups of belligerents on the same footing, has set aside entirely

Continued on page 2, column 6

## U. S. WILLING TO JOIN LEAGUE OF NATIONS FOR PEACE

The following suggestion as to a possible abandonment of the Monroe Doctrine as a permanent policy of the United States government appeared in the statement authorized by the Administration and made public yesterday in explanation of President Wilson's recent note to the European powers:

As to permanent guarantees it was officially declared that the United States stands ready to enter any kind of international agreement that may seem most desirable to the nation, whether permanent peace is to be secured by force, if necessary, or by law. The country is not committed to any one plan and President Wilson is entirely open to suggestions.

It is the Administration's view that the country can be committed to an abandonment of the policy of isolation, much as President Monroe committed it to the Monroe Doctrine, without Senate action. In the plans so far contemplated, however, it is probable the nations would be bound by treaty agreement, which would necessarily have to be ratified by the Senate, so far as the United States is concerned.

## POLITE "NO" REPLY TO U. S. BERLIN PAPERS DOUBT WILSON

## Allies Not to Slam Door on Wilson, but Will Not Yield

By ARTHUR S. DRAPER  
(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Dec. 23.—Print the word "NO" in type as big as this page. Then print it in all sizes of type down to agate. Print the word "YES," at first in agate, and then in all the various sizes of type up to the largest on this page.

If you could line up these types and compare them you would get an idea of the various gradations of British public opinion, as shown by the replies of the newspapers to President Wilson's note.

**Reply Will Be Moderate**

But there is only one reply that counts—the reply of the British government—and that has not yet been made public. I doubt if Premier Lloyd George himself knows yet just what that reply will be. It will not be pitched in the lowest key; it will not be pitched in the highest, but it will be somewhere in between the two extremes which have been voiced by the press.

Before any action is taken there must be a consultation of some length among all the Allied governments. This will require much time and telegraphing. When it is ready it probably will be a joint reply.

The answer will hardly be received in Washington before the New Year. It is also not likely to be a positive declaration rather a "no" which allows room for a reconsideration. It is certain to be a courteous and friendly reply, with an expression of appreciation for the motive prompting the offer.

**Sole Topic in London**

Today in London there is virtually no other topic of conversation. It is nothing mildly to say that the whole country is greatly surprised and keenly interested both in the President's offer to the belligerents and in the reply thereto.

The British are a proud and earnest people, and there is one phrase in the note, "Each side desires to make

Continued on page 2, column 1

## PRESIDENT IS CONFIDENT HIS VIEWS WILL PREVAIL

## Feels Resentment Must Die Out as Allied Peoples Come to Realize Continued War Will 'Bleed World White'

## U. S. IS ENTITLED TO KNOW WAR AIMS, WILSON'S STAND

## Asks if France Demands Alsace and Indem- nity and if She Has Definite Plan to End German Militarism—Expects Im- possible Terms at First

By The Associated Press

Washington, Dec. 23.—A desire for information as to their exact meaning in stating that they seek a "just and permanent peace" is the whole purpose of the note addressed to all the belligerents by President Wilson. The United States desires a full, practical and detailed statement from each of the governments addressed. This outline, and what follows, was stated officially to-day for the Administration.

This government does not know, and feels that it has no real means of knowing, what terms would be required by each of the belligerents to make peace. It regards the recent speeches of the leading statesmen in all countries as vague and undefined and sees nothing in them that would enable a conference to draw up a treaty.

All speak of the rights of small nations, the repugnance of conquest and the guarantees of a permanent peace, but no one nation has yet gone into what it means by those phrases in a way that the government of the United States can understand.

**ASKS WHAT FRANCE WILL DEMAND**

Recent press comment has been taken to enhance that vagueness. France, for instance, has not disclosed if what she considers a just peace means the evacuation of her northern provinces, or, in addition to that, the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine, or if in addition to both those claims she expects a money indemnity for the damage of invasion, or beyond that if she has an actual programme for doing away with so-called German militarism. In short, the United States asks what she would accept to-day as the basis of peace.

Similar issues apply to all the belligerent countries in merely a varying form. What President Wilson wants is their details. As the largest neutral facing grave problems, and as the friend of all parties concerned, the United States feels most earnestly that it is entitled to know those facts. Unless some one of the groups lays down its actual terms there will be no basis for negotiation and no possibility of peace till the world is bled white, officials declare.

There is not the slightest expectation here that the terms laid down will be reconcilable at first. It is known that some of the nations will demand what in actuality is impossible. Nevertheless, the naming of those terms will afford a basis of negotiation, a starting place from which the conflicting interests can begin to converge.

**THINK U. S. VIEW MUST PREVAIL**

Nor is any embarrassment seen to any of the nations in naming such terms. It is understood in advance that they are likely to fluctuate with the military changes and are not permanently binding under new conditions. Whatever any nation feels must be included in its terms for moral reasons can also be added to the terms without embarrassment, it is said.

As to permanent guarantees, it was officially declared that the United States stands ready to enter any kind of international agreement that may seem most desirable to the nation, whether permanent peace is to be secured by force, if necessary, or by law. The country is not committed to any one plan and President Wilson is entirely open to suggestions.

It is the Administration view that the country can be committed to an abandonment of the policy of isolation, much as President Monroe committed it to the Monroe Doctrine, without Senate action. In the plans so far contemplated, however, it is probable the nations would be bound by treaty agreement, which would necessarily have to be ratified by the Senate, so far as the United States is concerned.

A fuller understanding of the embarrassment caused to the Administration by the coincidence of its note with the German proposals was given to-day, when it was said that, despite the early unfavorable effect which the note was expected to have in the Allied countries through that fact, it was decided to risk it in view of the greater interest involved. It is expected it may be some time before the American viewpoint will be accepted abroad, but it is felt that in the end it certainly will prevail.

It was also stated most emphatically that the note was not rushed off on Monday in order to get to Premier Lloyd George before he had irrevocably committed the Allies against peace in his speech to Parliament Tuesday. That assumption was

### Merry Christmas!

To-day is Christmas Day on the pages of The Tribune Institute. They tell of old-time Christmas pies, of modern Christmas recipes, and of a new sort of Christmas gift. Read them: you will find them in Part IV this morning.

But before you read them let The Tribune Institute here wish you a very Merry Christmas. It is a wish that we shall feel the surer will be fulfilled if we know that you have been getting the weekly inspiration of The Tribune Institute's pages.

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